

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-02 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 SP-02 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-01
USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05
WRDE-00 EB-08 SIL-01 LAB-04 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CAB-02
IO-13 SVC-00 /114 W

-----086861 231724Z /44

O R 231730Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7546

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USINT HAVANA

USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CANAL ZONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3923

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: FSLN ATTACK: UPDATE

REF: MANAGUA 3919

1. FOLLOWING IS BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY AS OF
9:30 A.M. AUGUST 23 BASED UPON VARIOUS REPORTS OBTAINED BY
MISSION PERSONNEL.

2. NUMBER OF PERSONS HELD AND/OR TRAPPED IN PALACE IS
FROM 800 TO 1000, OF WHICH APPROXIMATELY 40 ARE PARLIAMENTARIANS.
DURING LAST NIGHT SOME 100 TO 200 PEOPLE ESCAPED, SOME THROUGH
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AN AIR CONDITIONER HOLE IN WALL WHILE OTHERS SIMPLY WALKED
OUT WAVING WHITE HANDKERCHIEFS AND PROCEEDED WITHOUT HARM
TO INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL FROM WHERE THEY CALL THEIR
RELATIVES. INCLUDED IN THE LATTER GROUP WAS ONE US
CITIZEN, MR. ATTILA TOROK, EMPLOYED BY A LOCAL FIRM.

3. GON AUTHORITIES HAVE CLOSED MANAGUA AIRPORT,

PRESUMABLY IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE DEPARTURE OF FSLN ATTACKERS, POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SOME HOSTAGES. ACCORDING TO OUR REPORTS GON IS PREPARING A C-47 FOR POSSIBLE TAKEOFF.

4. LATEST FIGURE ON DEATHS ARE FROM 10 TO 12 WITH FOUR BODIES HAVING BEEN REMOVED LAST NIGHT. NONE OF THE DEAD WERE KNOWN PERSONALITIES. THEY INCLUDED PERSONAL BODYGUARDS OF SOME OF THE PARLIAMENTARIANS AS WELL AS GUARDIA NACIONAL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY FSLN DEATHS.

5. SOME OF THOSE THAT ESCAPED LAST NIGHT HAVE CLAIMED THAT "OTHER NATIONALITIES" ARE INCLUDED IN THE FSLN ATTACK GROUP. WE DO NOT KNOW AS YET WHICH FSLN FACTION IS INVOLVED.

6. NICARAGUAN RADIO STATIONS ARE ON "NATIONAL BROADCASTING", WHICH MEANS THEY ARE ALL BROADCASTING THE GON NATIONAL STATION. THE ONLY NEWS COMING OVER ALL STATIONS THIS MORNING HAS BEEN THE GON ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TERRORIST DEMANDS AND GON RESPONSE REQUESTING 24-HOUR EXTENSION. WE JUST GOT REPORT THAT GON HAS CLOSED BORDERS WITH COSTA RICA AND HONDURAS. SOLAUN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: FSLN ATTACK: UPDATE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, NU, FSLN
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